

Message Text

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11/21

ORIGIN NEA-16

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/GRK:GTCHURCHILL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095383

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINE 2 MISSING)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: SOUDA BAY, AEGEAN DISPUTE

1. AT MAY 7 LUNCHEON WITH GREEK COUNTRY DIRECTOR CHURCHILL, GREEK MINISTER COUNSELOR NOMIKOS COMMENTED THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED VERY BRIEF CABLE ABOUT AMBASSADOR TASCA'S DEMARCHE ON SOUDA BAY, WITH DETAILS TO FOLLOW. ACCORDING HIS INFORMATION, DEMARCHE HAD CENTERED ON GREEK DEMANDS FOR QUID PRO QUO. CHURCHILL POINTED OUT THAT SCOPE OF DEMARCHE CONSIDERABLY BROADER. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED BY CERTAIN CHANGES IN GREEK POSITION ON MUTUAL SECURITY ISSUES, INCLUDING: A) GENERAL GOG ATTITUDE THAT GREECE NOW GIVING MORE THAN IT RECEIVES IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.; B) INSISTENCE BY GREEK MILITARY ON QUID PRO QUO FOR SOUDA BAY AND HOMEPORTING;
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C) GOG FEELING THAT BASIC BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ARE OVERLY

FAVORABLE TO U.S.; D) DIFFICULTIES IN NEGOTIATING POINTS OF DIFFERENCE IN SOUDA BAY AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE GOG DOES NOT INTEND LOOSEN TIES WITH U-S. OR NATO, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED THAT CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF CHANGES WE PERCEIVE MAY EVENTUALLY ADD UP TO AN INADVERTENT SHIFT IN GREEK FOREIGN POLICY TO DISADVANTAGE OF BOTH SIDES. OUR DEMARCHE WAS MADE IN HOPE THAT GOG WOULD REVIEW THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S., TO BE SURE THE OVERALL DIRECTION OF GREEK POLICY WAS IN ACCORD

WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF GREECE AND THE ALLIANCE.

2- NOMIKOS STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH US WAS BASIS OF GREEK FOREIGN POLICY, AND IT WAS UNTHINKABLE THAT IT COULD BE CHANGED. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT MILITARY LEADERS OF GREECE MIGHT WELL FEEL THAT USG WAS CHANGING ITS POLICY TOWARD GREECE, SINCE WE WERE RELUCTANT PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MEET LEGITIMATE GREEK NEEDS. (NOTE: THROUGHOUT, NOMIKOS USED TERM "OUR MILITARY LEADERS" INSTEAD OF HIS CUSTOMARY PHRASE "MY GOVERNMENT".) EXPOUNDING ON GREEK MILITARY NEEDS, NOMIKOS STATED WITH SOME HEAT THAT GREECE REQUIRED MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST TURKEY, WHICH WAS BEHAVING IN MOST PROVOCATIVE MANNER. CHURCHILL POINTED OUT THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED IN NATO CONTEXT FOR POTENTIAL CONFLICT WITH WARSAW PACT, AND THAT WE COULD NOT ACCEPT IDEA OF ARMING ONE NATO PARTNER FOR CONFRONTATION WITH ANOTHER.

3. NOMIKOS MADE VIGOROUS CASE THAT TURKEY WAS TO BLAME IN PUSHING TWO COUNTRIES TOWARD CONFRONTATION IN AEGEAN, CITING DAFFODIL FACE INCIDENT AND GOT INSISTENCE ON OIL EXPLORATION ON CONTINENTAL SHELF RIGHTFULLY BELONGING TO GREEK ISLANDS. ACCORDING NOMIKOS, TURKISH PETROLEUM CORPORATION HAS CONTRACTED WITH U.S. FIRM GSI (NO FURTHER DESCRIPTION) FOR SEISMOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION IN AEGEAN. GREECE WOULD NEVER MAKE OFFENSIVE MOVE AGAINST TURKEY, NOMIKOS SAID, BUT WOULD OF COURSE BE OBLIGED DEFEND GREEK SOVEREIGNTY IF PROVOKED TO DO SO BY TURKEY. PRESSED TO ACCEPT GOG VIEW OF SITUATION, CHURCHILL COM-
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MENTED ONLY THAT ASSIGNMENT OF BLAME SEEMED UNFRUITFUL EXERCISE IN SITUATION OF THIS KIND, THAT WE HOPED OUR TWO ALLIES WOULD WORK OUT THIS PROBLEM AMICABLY, AND THAT WE DID NOT SEE A ROLE FOR THE U.S. IN THIS BILATERAL ISSUE.
RUSH

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